Adios Amigo!

This past academic year has been a challenging but successful one for the Office of Graduate Admissions. First, our annual Graduate School Open House was a huge success! We had a 30 percent increase in attendance over previous years. Our guests had an informative and enjoyable morning at Niagara while learning about our university and graduate programs. These prospective students were welcomed by faculty and NU graduate students. During the Table Talk session, student life representatives answered questions and provided important information relevant to the NU graduate experience. The photos below will give you an idea of what the day entailed.

Secondly, if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Niagara University’s graduate programs and were not able to attend the open house, please feel free to contact me. I will be happy to answer your specific questions and show you around our gorgeous campus.

Finally, we must say goodbye to graduate assistant Rafael Venturini. For the past two years, Rafael has been instrumental in our recruitment efforts while earning his MBA from Niagara. His fun-loving personality will be missed in our office. I’d like to wish Rafael much success in his future endeavors!

Have an awesome summer everyone!

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Did You Know?

Cagey Facts

NBA Hall of Fame member Calvin Murphy, ’70, is the leading scorer in Niagara basketball history with 2,548 points, 338 more than Juan Mendez, who is second on the list. Calvin’s single-game scoring record of 68 points was set against Syracuse on December 7, 1968. Niagara University and the Houston Rockets have retired his number 23.

Business Dinner Honors Alumnus, MBA Student

The 19th Annual Business Appreciation Dinner, held on April 21, was an outstanding success. Lenovo, one of the largest manufacturers of personal computers, was awarded the Corporate Leadership Award. Accepting the award was Niagara business alumnus Thomas Looney, ’74, who is vice president and general manager. Looney delivered the keynote speech “Thinking Globally,” a concept that Lenovo epitomizes. Lenovo is a company without walls with a multicultural management team and a strategy that centers on world sourcing. The event was made even more memorable when Looney presented a torch Lenovo designed for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing to Niagara University “as a symbol of Niagara’s commitment to excellence and preparing students to compete in the global economy.”

Christopher Sargent of Rich Products Corp. was awarded the Outstanding MBA Student-of-Year-Award. He has demonstrated academic excellence and exemplary work ethics and was a unanimous choice of the faculty.

Alumnus Thomas Looney, ’74 (left), vice president and general manager of Lenovo, presents the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president, with an Olympic torch designed by Lenovo “as a symbol of Niagara’s commitment to excellence and preparing students to compete in the global economy.”

MA-IS Four Receive MA-IS Degrees

Four students graduated this May with their Master of Arts – Interdisciplinary Studies degrees. Lisa McMahon, Ben Nigro, Becki Schicker, and Amy Wrobel completed capstone projects focusing on electronic publishing, college coaching, nonprofit social service agencies, and medieval English literature, respectively. All four were able to finish their degrees while working full-time jobs, no small accomplishment.

Congratulations!

These students self-designed their degree curriculums and created courses that enabled them to work with individual faculty members. Their capstone projects applied course work and research to practical issues that will help advance their careers.

For additional information on the 33-credit hour program, including a new communications course on “Writing for the Web,” go to www.niagara.edu/interdisciplinary index.htm.

Action is the foundational key to all success.

— Pablo Picasso
Niagara Catholic District School Board Mentor Connector Program Offered

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, in conjunction with Brock and Niagara universities, has developed an innovative online mentoring and tutoring program. Students are able to log in and receive help for four hours Monday through Thursday for courses in religion, math, science, English, French and social studies.

According to associate professor Dr. Vincent Rinaldo, the board is “really committed and invested in this technology,” and has created it to meet the needs of 21st century students. Dr. Thomas Sheeran, professor of education, agrees and feels strongly that “children may be more comfortable working in an online environment rather than face to face.” It is important to note that all communication between tutors and students is recorded for research and review as well as to protect the integrity of both parties.

The program is free of charge for students to use and provides a service that has otherwise not been available. The partnership is extremely beneficial because it has allowed more than 65 students to volunteer their knowledge as a tutor and develop a working relationship with the NCDSB. Still under development is the addition of programs for students in seventh and eighth grade by 2010. The faculty is proud to offer this program for both prospective teachers as well as students who will benefit from working with a mentor.

Faculty Profile: Dr. Timothy Ireland

Dr. Timothy Ireland, chair of the department of criminology and criminal justice, has focused his research over the past few years primarily in the area of family violence — exposure to and consequences of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. His study is affiliated with the Rochester Youth Development Study, which is an ongoing longitudinal study of adolescents from Rochester, N.Y.

The study started in the late 1980s when the participants (n=1,000) were in seventh or eighth grade in the Rochester public schools. The study participants have been tracked and interviewed repeatedly since selection for the study. Recently, wave 14 data collection was completed, and the participants are now approximately 30 years old. The Rochester study also collected data on the parents of the participants, and in one of the only intergenerational studies of its kind, has been collecting data on the children of the participants as well.

Recently, Ireland published his research findings in the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry and the Journal of Youth and Adolescence. In addition, over the past four years, Ireland has been a co-principle investigator of a National Institute of Drug Abuse grant, and since 2006, he has been involved in an assessment of the HOPE VI project in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Over the past several years, Ireland has received recognition for his research, his teaching, and his service to the university and the community.
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